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Agenda item 94

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 72/22.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 October 2018, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 93 to 108. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, on the basis of conference room papers before it,[1] on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament. At its 2nd to 11th meetings, from 8 to 12 and from 15 to 18 October, the Committee held a general debate on the items. At its 8th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and on reports presented to the Committee for its consideration, with a special focus on the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. At its 10th meeting, on 17 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 15 meetings (11th to 25th), on 18 and 19, from 22 to 26 and from 29 to 31 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and

[1] A/C.1/73/CRP.2 and A/C.1/73/CRP.3, available at www.un.org/en/ga/first/73/documentation73.shtml.

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considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 26th to 31st meetings, on 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 November.[2]

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.33

5. On 15 October, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Georgia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Portugal and Trinidad and Tobago, submitted a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" (A/C.1/73/L.33). Subsequently, Canada, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 26th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.33 without a vote (see para. 7).

[2] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/73/PV.1, A/C.1/73/PV.2, A/C.1/73/PV.3, A/C.1/73/PV.4, A/C.1/73/PV.5, A/C.1/73/PV.6, A/C.1/73/PV.7, A/C.1/73/PV.8, A/C.1/73/PV.9, A/C.1/73/PV.10, A/C.1/73/PV.11, A/C.1/73/PV.12, A/C.1/73/PV.13, A/C.1/73/PV.14, A/C.1/73/PV.15, A/C.1/73/PV.16, A/C.1/73/PV.17, A/C.1/73/PV.18, A/C.1/73/PV.19, A/C.1/73/PV.20, A/C.1/73/PV.21, A/C.1/73/PV.22, A/C.1/73/PV.23, A/C.1/73/PV.24, A/C.1/73/PV.25, A/C.1/73/PV.26, A/C.1/73/PV.27, A/C.1/73/PV.28, A/C.1/73/PV.29, A/C.1/73/PV.30 and A/C.1/73/PV.31.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) in Cairo on 11 April 1996,[1]

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[2] in which it was emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[3] in which the Council affirmed that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] on 15 July 2009;

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

3. *Recalls* the convening of the first Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), on 4 November 2010, the second Conference of States Parties, on 12 and 13 November 2012, the third Conference of States Parties, on 29 and 30 May 2014, and the fourth Conference of States Parties, on 14 and 15 March 2018, all held in Addis Ababa;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty[1] that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

6. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and encourages them to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards

[1] A/50/426, annex.
[2] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex.
[3] S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996* (S/INF/52).
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

agreements on the basis of the model protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".